



Date: June 2, 2014

TO: Board Members - Vancouver Park Board  
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation  
SUBJECT: Sport Field Amenity Improvements Project

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## RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the allocation of \$3 million in capital funding to implement the priority sport field amenity improvement projects identified in this report.

## POLICY/BACKGROUND

In December 2012, as part of the 2013 Capital Budget Report, Vancouver City Council approved an additional expenditure of \$3 million from the Emerging Priorities Fund to be allocated to a new Park Board program for additions, improvements and upgrades to sport field facilities. The Park Board was tasked with identifying and evaluating amenity improvement opportunities and making recommendations for the allocation of these funds by June 2014.

## DISCUSSION

The Park Board operates and maintains over 150 sport fields. Many of the facilities or amenities at these locations do not adequately meet user needs or requirements. In order to improve amenities at key sites, Council approved \$3 million in funding for sport field facility additions, improvements and upgrades.

This commitment to fund improvements in the City's sport facilities reinforces and builds upon strengthened interactions with sport stakeholders, supports active communities through improved access and provides quality facilities to encourage sport participation, development and excellence. It also builds on the legacy of the 2010 Winter Games to further enhance Vancouver's sport hosting capabilities.

### *Project Identification & Evaluation Process*

To identify and assess potential project investment opportunities, leverage investment from partners and ultimately to inform its funding recommendations, Park Board staff completed a series of key actions, including:

- Conducted a Request for Expression of Interest to enable community sport partners to present ideas or needs for specific sport field sites and explain their ability to assist in funding the projects;
- Completed internal analysis and research to identify deficiencies and recommend sport field amenity improvements/upgrades; and

- Engaged in a comprehensive engagement process with community sport partners (representing over 20 different organizations) to obtain their thoughts, comments and support for the proposed project funding recommendations.

Through these initiatives, 16 projects were identified for funding consideration (see table below).

Potential Projects			
Park Location	Sport Fields	Current Park Amenities	Proposed Project Scope
Carnarvon	Baseball, football, soccer, softball	Field house (washrooms, storage, concession)	Refurbish existing field house
China Creek	Soccer, softball	Portable toilets	Build washroom facilities
Eric Hamber/ Oak Meadows	Artificial turf, soccer, ultimate	Portable toilet	Build a multi-use field house facility
Hastings Community	Baseball	Field house (washrooms, storage, concession)	Refurbish existing field house washrooms
Hillcrest	Baseball, soccer	Community centre (washrooms, change rooms)	Build a Challenger baseball field
Jericho	Artificial turf, baseball, rugby, soccer, softball	Public washrooms (located in Jericho Service Yard)	Upgrade pathway lighting and way-finding signage
John Hendry	Baseball, rugby, soccer, softball	Field house (limited access); beach area (washrooms, concession); community centre (washrooms)	Install a multi-use storage solution
Memorial South	Artificial turf, baseball, cricket, soccer, softball, ultimate	Field house (washrooms, change rooms)	Refurbish existing field house
Point Grey/ Kerrisdale	Artificial turf, baseball, soccer	Arena (washrooms, change rooms)	Refurbish existing arena facilities; improve lighting and way-finding signage
Strathcona	Baseball, soccer, softball	Field house (washrooms, change rooms)	Refurbish existing field house
Tisdall	Softball	Portable toilet	Build washroom facilities
Van Tech	Artificial turf	Portable toilet	Build washroom facilities
Various locations	Softball	To be added	Install new benches at existing softball fields
Various locations	Artificial turf	To be added	Install player shelters at existing artificial turf fields
Various locations	To be determined	To be added	Install backstops at non-softball fields
Winona	Football, rugby, ultimate	Field house (washrooms, change rooms)	Refurbish existing field house

### Recommended Projects & Funding Allocations

Based on available City/Park Board and partner funding, 10 projects have been selected and recommended for implementation. The projects range from the construction of new facilities and major field house refurbishments to more modest but important improvements such as

the installation of players' shelters at artificial turf fields and benches at a number of softball field locations.

The recommended projects have received strong endorsement from community sport partners, including the Vancouver Field Sport Federation, and provide:

- Strong alignment with Park Board priorities;
- Balanced distribution across sports and geography;
- Address service gaps in the City's sport field network; and
- Leverage available partner funding.

The projects recommended for implementation are outlined in the table below.

Projects Recommended for Implementation	Estimated Funding Requirements		
	City/Park Board	Partner	Total
New build: Eric Hamber/Oak Meadows field house	\$642,000	\$70,000 <sup>1</sup>	\$712,000
New build: Van Tech washroom facilities	\$407,000		\$407,000
Refurbishment: Carnarvon field house	\$388,000	\$100,000 <sup>2</sup>	\$488,000
Refurbishment: Memorial South field house	\$571,000		\$571,000
Refurbishment: Hastings Community field house (washrooms only)	\$240,000		\$240,000
Park development: Hillcrest Challenger baseball field	\$256,000	\$30,000 <sup>3</sup>	\$286,000
Park development: Point Grey/Kerrisdale rink access, lighting and way-finding signage improvement	\$35,000		\$35,000
Park development: John Hendry storage solution	\$10,000	\$5,000 <sup>4</sup>	\$15,000
Park development: Benches at softball fields (Beaconsfield, Champlain Heights, Douglas, Montgomery, Norquay)	\$25,000		\$25,000
Park development: Player shelters at artificial turf fields (Hamber, Jericho, Memorial South, Point Grey, Trillium and Van Tech)	\$275,000		\$275,000
<b>Total for 10 Projects</b>	<b>\$2,849,000</b>	<b>\$205,000</b>	<b>\$3,054,000</b>

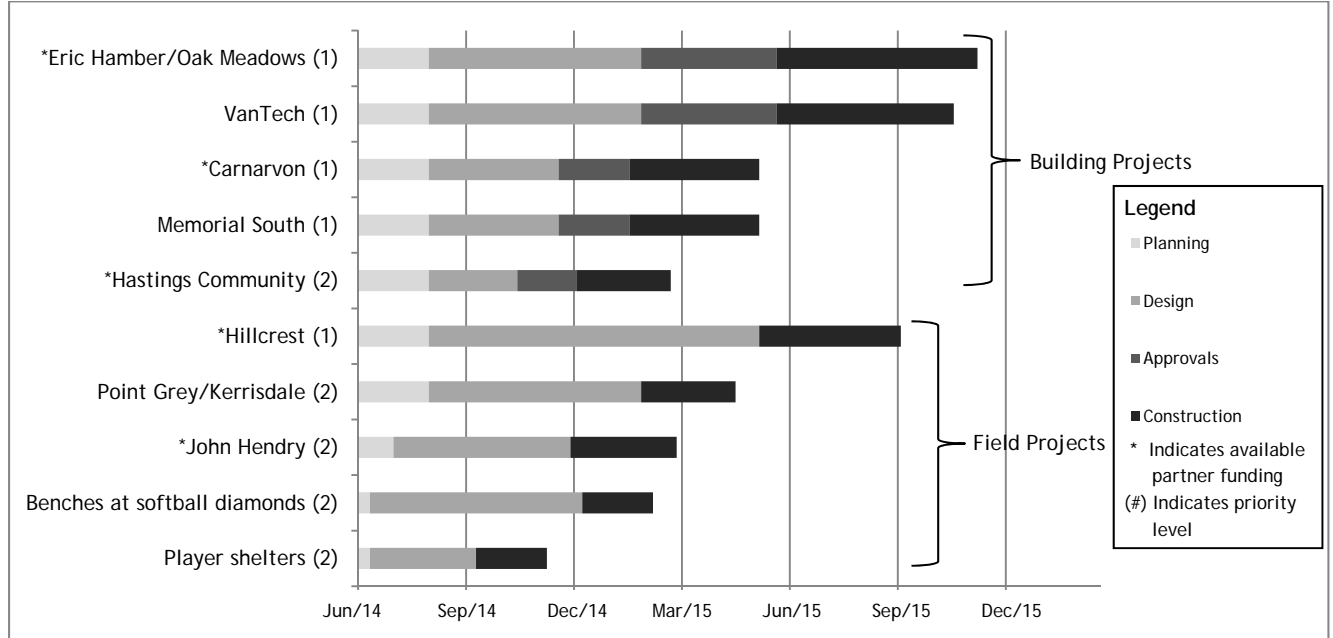
*Funding Partners:*

- 1 - Vancouver Hawks Field Hockey Club
- 2 - Jericho Little League and West Side Warriors Football Club
- 3 - Vancouver Canadians Baseball Club
- 4 - Scribes Rugby Football Club

The City/Park Board will contribute \$2.849 million in funding to support these improvements and upgrades while community sport partners will provide \$205,000 to assist in funding four of the initiatives. The remaining \$151,000 in available City/Park Board funding will be set aside as a contingency to cover any unexpected work during project implementation.

### Project Implementation Schedule

Project implementation will begin immediately with expected completion dates ranging from Fall 2014 to late 2015. A summary of the estimated implementation timeline by project is provided in the figure below.



### Strategic Analysis

The Sport Field Amenity Improvement Project aligns strongly with several City/Park Board strategic goals and directions, including the Vancouver Sport Strategy, Healthy City Strategy, Park Board Strategic Plan, City budget goals and Council capital plan priorities.

#### *Vancouver Sport Strategy*

As the first municipality to develop a sport strategy within the Canadian Sport for Life framework, the City's endorsement of this project supports the following Vancouver Sport Strategy goals:

- Strengthened interaction with sport stakeholders;
- Improved opportunities for citizens to be active for life;
- Increased number of quality facilities to encourage sport participation and performance; and
- Enhanced capability for sport event hosting.

#### *Healthy City Strategy*

By improving sport field amenities at the selected locations and supporting community sport development and participation, this initiative will support and promote Healthy City Strategy goals of active living and getting outside and cultivating connections.

*Park Board Strategic Plan*

This project also directly supports the Park Board's Strategic Plan by upholding commitments to parks and recreation for all and engaging people. Furthermore, by leveraging partner funding, it advances the Park Board's strategic direction to demonstrate excellence in resource management.

*City's Budget Goals and Council Capital Plan Priorities*

Lastly, by leveraging external resources through strategic partner funding, project delivery will further the City's budget goals and advance Council capital plan priorities of safety, inclusion and creativity, and economic development (since the initiatives will benefit a large and diverse range of park users).

*Other Considerations*

Some of the new facilities being introduced may cause nominal increases in overall facility maintenance and operating costs. If realized, these additional expenses will be absorbed by existing operating budgets.

**SUMMARY**

The recommended projects meet the goals and objectives of the Sport Field Amenity Improvements Program, directly address a number of key Park Board priority areas and will provide sport field user groups with some much needed amenity improvements at key sport field locations. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Board approve the proposed allocation of \$3 million in capital funding for the sport field amenity improvements outlined in this report.

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